Many Men of Many Minds

Talcott Williams, journalist.—We shun crisp diction, fresh from the people. So all speech began. When a tongue ceases to spawn new words, fresh phrases, novel images, thought and progress stop also. The closer to daily life and speech is the writer's pen or the click of the typewriter keys, the more active, the more efficient, the more effective is the utterance of the writer and the life of the people. So long as accepted and acceptable writing accepts and shares the daily changes of the vocabulary of the market place; so long as both live and move and have their being in the sun of passion, action and achievement, the more lasting, pungent and penetrating is the literature of the period.

Frank Tannenbaum, economist.—The average professional criminal begins his career as a boy, often as a child. Some of them begin their lives of "crime" as early as the age of seven. More than twenty per cent of our criminals are under twenty-one.

Richard T. Ely, professor, political economy, Wisconsin University.—Failure after failure marks the successive steps in the downward course of Russia under Bolshevism. The Bolshevists wanted collective property in land and collective management. They robbed the old landowners and stopped the sane and very remarkable land reform then in progress, but by turning land over to the peasants they have merely strengthened the class that adheres to private ownership. Yet the peasant proprietors do not enjoy the full blessings of private property in land, because, rightly, they feel insecure in their titles. When the peasant becomes rich, will not a poor peasant seek to dispossess him? When robbery begins, when and where will it stop? But that is not all. Bolshevism having paralyzed industry, the people in the cities have nothing to exchange for what the peasants produce except worthless paper, and of that the peasant has had enough.

Land Hunger of the Peasant Blocks Bolshevism

W. W. Roper, head coach, Princeton University.—The difference between the old game of football and the new is, roughly, the difference between a battle of full-witted rams, butting each other as stupidly as tenaciously, and a clash between two masters of fence. There is a thrill in both of these but I think most of us will find a keener thrill in lightning thrust and parry than in patient forehead bumpings.

Guy Hayler, of London, president of World Prohibition Federation.—Throughout India there is a general feeling that, under further measures of Home Rule, prohibition will be almost universally adopted. News is to hand from South America that the evils resulting from alcoholism demand strong and immediate attention. Regarding the great continent of Africa, it is noted with thankfulness that the Covenant of the League of Nations declares in favor of "the prohibition of abuses such as the slave trade, the arms traffic, and the liquor traffic."

M. Francois Marshal, French minister of finance.—Impartial Americans who have traversed France this season must have noticed the industrial and agricultural activity in every province they visited. Our exports have increased from one-fifth of our imports during the first half of last year, to one-half of the imports for the first half of this year, representing a 72 per cent gain in value.

J. L. Benton, director of Philadelphia Textile Manufacturers Association.—Between 110,000 and 125,000 employes of textile mills in Philadelphia will be out of work this winter unless they watch their step. The weeding out has already begun. Approximately 40,000 have already been dropped. Whether the remainder will follow depends to a considerable extent upon the workers themselves. The textile manufacturers are not opposed to unions, but they are opposed to radical leaders and are going to the mat here and now with them.

Luther B. Bewley, director of education for Philippine Islands.—Probably the greatest unifying factor and the most potent tie of political union in every country is a common national language. English is more appropriate as a national language than any other because it is the best suited for communication with the outside world.

Melvin T. Copeland, of the School of Business Administration of Harvard University.—As long as the money market remains stringent price declines are likely to continue. Eventually, after the stocks of merchandise on hand at the present time are partially liquidated, the accumulation of banking reserves and the tendency to curtail production in some industries may be counted upon to reduce the strain upon our credit resources. Sooner or later this will tend to bring about lower discount rates on commercial loans.

Daniel T. Murphy, vice president, Northwest Irrigation Association.—If, as an irrigationist, I were seeking to convey luminously to another, unlearned in my science, the spirit, the soul and the atmosphere of the western art, I had rather use the word "aquaculture" connotatiously, than "agriculture" correctly; for irrigation—greater than either—lies between the two.

Daniel Willard, president, Association of Railway Executives.—If the railway managers are men of vision, if they realize their responsibilities as semi-public servants, as well as trustees of property of great value; if they feel that the policy of private ownership of property is upon the whole the best policy, I believe they will succeed in their undertaking and private ownership of railroads will continue.

Frank H. Simonds, war correspondent.—No one can fail to remark the odd circumstance that whereas, a century ago, all Europe was united against the radicalism of France and the doctrines of the French Revolution, France stands now almost the single unshaken stronghold of conservatism, against the radicalism of the Continent, and, for that matter, of the British Isles.

Camille Flammarion, French astronomer and scientist.—As a scientist I cannot affirm that the soul is immortal. I do affirm that the soul lives long after the body is dead, and that in time man will be able to control the fluids which make communication between the realm of death and life possible.

Fred C. Kelly, journalist.—Before hiring a man on the strength of his letters of recommendation, it is well to remember that there is many a man to whom one might give a strong testimonial in order to get rid of him.

Edwin A. Goewey, sporting editor.—If professional baseball is to be rescued from the crooks and returned to its once honored post among the world's sports, the game must be given the most thorough house-cleaning it ever had. No more whitewashing of men who demonstrate that their pledged word means nothing to them, no more sidestepping of deliberate violations of the rules for fear that publicity will interfere with the click of the turnstiles, no more tricky playing to win games!

Everett Kimball, professor of government, Smith College.—Seriously, the ballot is the most important political instrument we possess. It is our weapon. What care and ingenuity was displayed in designing and testing the Springfields and Brownings that the American Army used! How carefully the soldier was instructed in the mechanism of his weapon! With what good effect he used it! But in civil life the ballot is even more important than were guns in war. We may talk of public opinion, of good government and bad. We may write letters to the newspapers. But the ultimate and final way we have of controlling the political action of the government is by our vote. The ballot is our sole and ultimate weapon.

Ballot Your Bullet in Defense of Good Government

Thomas A. Edison.—I believe that life, like matter, is indestructible. There has always been a certain amount of life on this world and there will always be the same amount. You cannot create life; you cannot destroy life; you cannot multiply life.

Count Johann-Heinrich Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States.—The Russo-Polish War threatens us with grave dangers. Germany must maintain strictest neutrality because any other policy would lead us to destruction. We who desire the peaceful reconstruction of Germany on a democratic basis must keep in check our own Bolsheviki, and those few who would like to put their swords at the disposal of the Entente for the fight against the Bolsheviki.

Theodore Roosevelt.—After a certain not very high level of material well-being has been reached, then the things that really count in life are the things of the spirit. Factories and railways are good up to a certain point; but courage and endurance, love of wife and child, love of home and country, love of lover for sweetheart, love of beauty in man's work and in nature, love and emulation of daring and of lofty endeavor, the homely workaday virtues and the heroic virtues—these are better still, and if they are lacking, no piled-up riches, no roaring, clanging industrialism, no feverish and many-sided activity shall avail either the individual or the nation. I do not undervalue these things of a nation's body; I only desire that they shall not make us forget that besides the nation's body there is also the nation's soul.

Rev. Mr. Benjamin H. Spence, secretary, Dominion Alliance.—One former provincial official is now in the penitentiary for using his position in conjunction with the big interests for bootleggers and others. The law which he brought into contempt has never recovered from the damage done nor shaken off the odium. Some people learn by bitter experience. Evidently quite a number of such people live in British Columbia. South Carolina and Saskatchewan tried an almost perfect system of government control and it was a failure. Both replaced their laws with prohibition.

Kenneth L. Roberts, correspondent.—No prophet who ever lived, and no student of immigration, no matter how weighty his brain, is capable of figuring out the number of foreigners who can be assimilated by the United States in a given period of time. If they are allowed to live in the slums and ghettos and foreign settlements in which they are now living, they cannot be assimilated. There isn't a chance of it.

George Ellery Hale, director, Mount Wilson Observatory.—Go out under the open sky, on a clear and moonless night and try to count the stars. If your station lies well beyond the glare of the cities, which is often strong enough to conceal all but the brightest objects, you will find the task a difficult one. Ranging through the six magnitudes of the Greek astronomers, from the brilliant Sirius to the faintest perceptible points of light, the stars are scattered in great profusion over the celestial vault. Their number seems limitless, yet actual count will show that the eye has been deceived. In a survey of the entire heavens, from pole to pole, it would not be possible to detect more than six to seven thousand stars with the naked eye. From a single viewpoint, even with the keenest vision, only two or three thousand can be seen.

Visible Stars No: as Numerous as Popularly Believed

Henry Grady, United States trade commissioner to Europe.—The necessity of the United States seeking other foreign markets than Europe is made further imperative by reason of the falling prices of commodities in this country. We must seek these other markets to keep up American production of industries.

F. Roger Miller, secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Macon, Georgia.—The United States is the only nation in the civilized world that has ignored housing as a national problem. The condition has been developing for years—it is not an outcome of the World War. Only 20,000 new homes were built in 1918. Twenty times that number were needed. Our normal increase this year calls for the construction of 1,250,000 dwellings.

Meredith Nicholson, writer.—In private affairs we resent being fooled, for to be swindled reflects upon our intelligence and is an affront to our dignity. In public matters we are stupidly tolerant of political tricksters and prone to indulge them, even to grin good-humoredly at their cleverness and insolence.

General Alvaro Obregon, president-elect of Mexico.—The Mexican Government is strong, popular and ready to comply with its international obligations, and I believe Mr. Wilson will have no objection to sanctioning recognition. I also believe that the people of the United States in close touch with us in commerce desire such recognition.

Charles E. Mitchell, president of National City Company.—It is, after all, merely a question as to whether or not all classes of American commerce are willing to co-operate to bring about sane, slow but steady deflation or whether resentment against the inevitable, accompanied by bitter attempts of one class or another to avoid for itself the burdens and sorrows of deflation by shifting processes, which must ultimately be futile in effect, will force the old economic law to take us all by the nape of the neck and shake us through panic to a proper recognition of and submission to her inexorable requirements.

Francis H. Sisson, vice president of the Guaranty Trust Company, of New York.—If one of the partners in our industrial business agrees to do a certain thing in a certain way, and fails, the firm contracts become impossible of fulfillment. If Labor agrees to supply effort at a given price, and Capital agrees to furnish certain supplies upon which Labor may expend its effort, both must recognize their responsibility. It has been said that the laws of contract are inviolate, and they must be. If we will consider the matter for a moment, a violation of contract precipitated the world into the most terrible war in its history. When contracts become impossible of fulfillment credit is injured and once more the industrial structure rocks.